

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE, Philadelphia, Pa.

**For release: Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

PLS – 4609

Technical Information: (215) 597-3282 • [BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov](mailto:BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov) • [www.bls.gov/ro3](http://www.bls.gov/ro3)

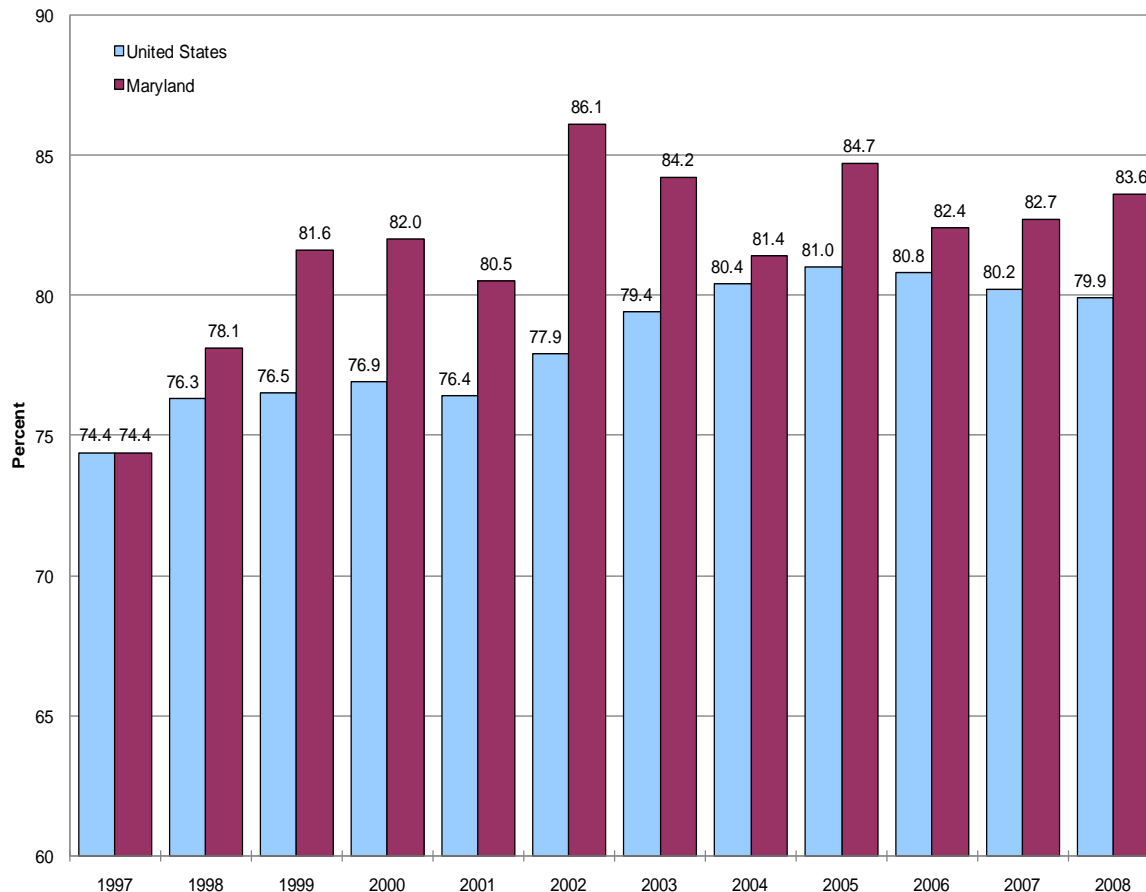
Media Contact: (215) 861-5600 • [BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov](mailto:BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov)

## WOMEN'S EARNINGS IN MARYLAND – 2008

In 2008, women who were full-time wage and salary workers in the State of Maryland had median weekly earnings of \$774, or 84 percent of the \$926 median for their male counterparts, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the ratio reported in Maryland in 2008 was below the peak ratio of 86 percent in 2002.

Nationwide, women earned \$638, or 80 percent of the \$798 median for men in 2008. At the national level, the ratio of women's to men's earnings has narrowed from 62 percent in 1979, the first year for which comparable earnings data are available. After a gradual rise in the 1980s and 1990s, the ratio peaked at 81 percent in 2005 and 2006. Since 1998, the women's-to-men's earnings ratio in Maryland remained above national numbers. (See chart 1.) Readers should note that the comparisons of earnings in this report are on a broad level and do not control for many factors that can be significant in explaining earnings differences.

**Chart 1. Women's earnings as a percent of men's, full-time wage and salary workers, United States and Maryland, 1997-2008 annual averages**



Nationally, the median weekly earnings of women in full-time wage and salary positions ranged from \$510 in Mississippi to \$866 in the District of Columbia. (See chart 2.) Within the South region of the country, of which Maryland is 1 of 17 states, only the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware reported wages above the national average for women.<sup>1</sup> The District of Columbia and Maryland, with median wages above \$700, had the highest wages for women in the South.

Across the nation, median weekly earnings for men were lowest in Arkansas at \$640. Men in Connecticut earned the highest wage at \$1,057. (See chart 3.) In the South, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and Georgia reported earnings above the national average for men. With median wages above \$900, the District of Columbia and Maryland had the highest wages for men in the South.

The ratio of female-to-male earnings in 2008 varied across the nation, ranging from 68 percent in Wyoming to 92 percent in the District of Columbia. (See table 1.) Within the South region, eight states exceeded the national ratio of 80 percent, while eight other states fell below, and one had a ratio equal to that for the nation. The differences among the states reflect, in part, variation in the occupations and industries found in each state and in the age composition of each state's labor force. In addition, sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data; thus, comparisons of state estimates should be made with caution.

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women and men, see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 1017, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2008," issued July 2009; copies are available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2008.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2008.pdf) or by calling the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at (215) 597-3282. Information in this release is also available to sensory impaired individuals. Voice phone: (202) 691- 5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

### Technical Note

The estimates in this report were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides a wide range of information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. Sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data.

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series in this release are described below.

*Usual weekly earnings.* Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders.)

*Median weekly earnings.* The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median.

*Wage and salary workers.* Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

*Full-time worker.* Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

---

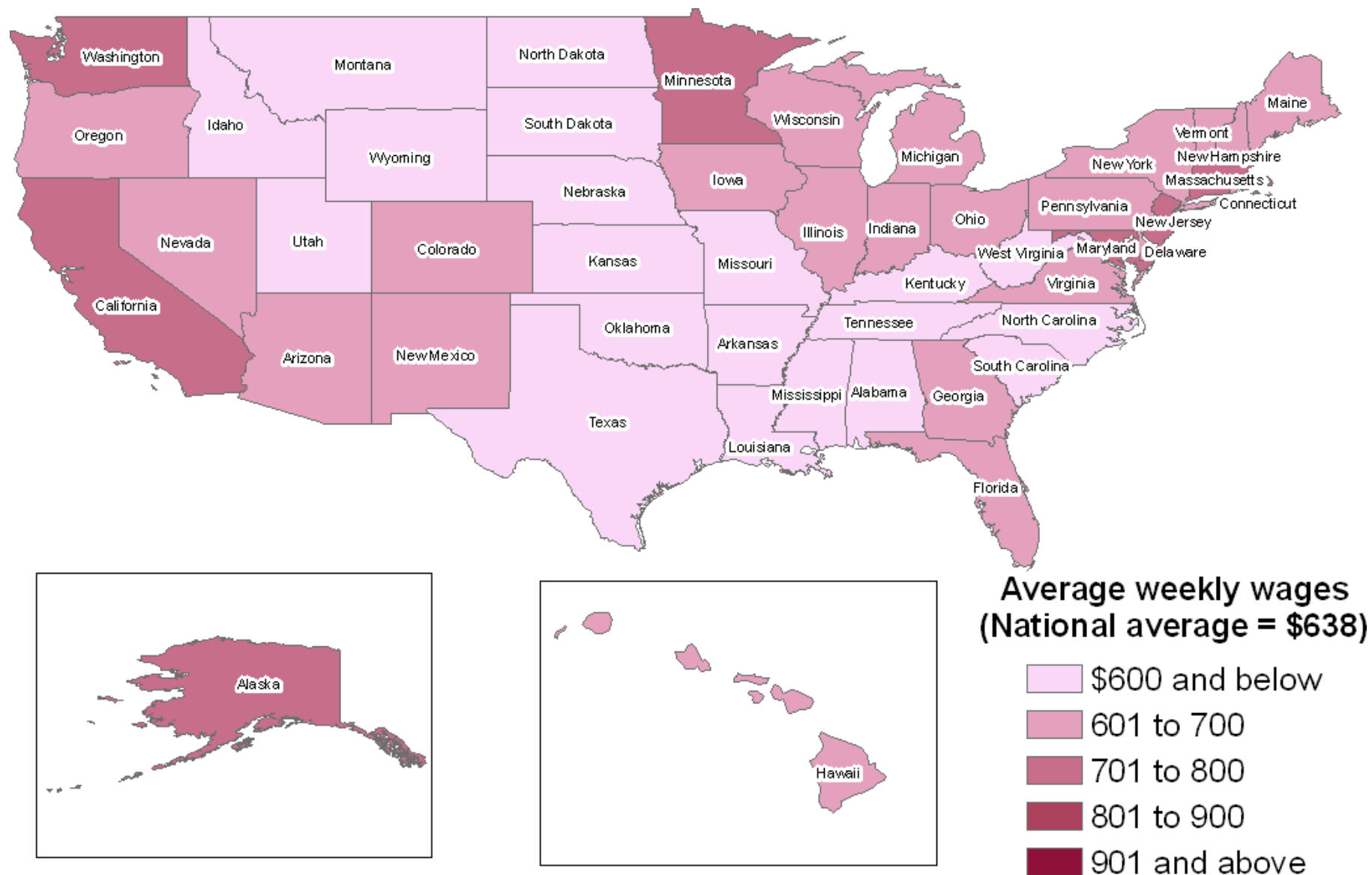
<sup>1</sup> The United States is composed of four geographic regions: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. The South region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State and sex, 2008 annual averages**

State	Both sexes			Women			Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
United States	106,648	\$722	\$2	47,209	\$638	\$2	59,439	\$798	\$3	79.9
Alabama	1,582	638	14	722	561	20	860	720	18	77.9
Alaska	240	847	16	104	719	16	136	970	23	74.1
Arizona	2,139	714	11	919	657	12	1,220	774	20	84.9
Arkansas	981	602	9	453	556	38	528	640	23	86.9
California	12,167	794	8	5,085	738	10	7,082	852	16	86.6
Colorado	1,874	784	14	797	693	15	1,077	878	23	78.9
Connecticut	1,272	935	21	565	772	24	707	1,057	32	73.0
Delaware	329	742	12	153	656	16	176	821	24	79.9
District of Columbia	261	896	22	133	866	16	128	939	24	92.2
Florida	6,425	685	7	3,004	616	5	3,422	754	9	81.7
Georgia	3,506	723	13	1,591	635	15	1,914	821	24	77.3
Hawaii	458	723	14	204	652	20	254	785	28	83.1
Idaho	481	658	13	196	560	14	286	736	19	76.1
Illinois	4,639	732	8	2,032	634	11	2,607	814	17	77.9
Indiana	2,351	696	13	1,046	615	13	1,305	807	23	76.2
Iowa	1,137	697	13	503	619	12	634	762	12	81.2
Kansas	1,027	694	15	448	589	12	579	808	26	72.9
Kentucky	1,376	645	16	602	551	18	774	719	16	76.6
Louisiana	1,496	654	11	700	565	24	796	777	32	72.7
Maine	441	691	13	196	607	13	245	764	21	79.5
Maryland	2,207	851	19	1,055	774	21	1,152	926	27	83.6
Massachusetts	2,311	897	15	1,038	762	15	1,273	1,003	16	76.0
Michigan	3,187	748	10	1,363	638	13	1,824	862	18	74.0
Minnesota	1,884	794	17	829	717	18	1,054	884	19	81.1
Mississippi	913	603	10	429	510	10	484	680	19	75.0
Missouri	2,135	668	14	981	586	11	1,154	778	17	75.3
Montana	297	639	11	132	528	15	165	715	13	73.8
Nebraska	673	662	12	296	583	13	377	737	17	79.1
Nevada	1,027	688	13	440	614	9	588	766	14	80.2
New Hampshire	501	808	20	222	689	24	278	945	20	72.9
New Jersey	3,222	824	14	1,441	726	13	1,782	942	13	77.1
New Mexico	666	672	13	295	606	9	372	749	16	80.9
New York	6,811	751	6	3,134	687	10	3,677	820	12	83.8
North Carolina	3,225	639	11	1,472	586	10	1,753	704	14	83.2
North Dakota	243	643	12	112	547	19	131	721	16	75.9
Ohio	4,008	701	9	1,786	614	7	2,221	776	12	79.1
Oklahoma	1,318	647	11	590	551	27	728	727	15	75.8
Oregon	1,221	715	15	510	633	12	711	795	23	79.6
Pennsylvania	4,435	735	7	2,016	642	9	2,419	815	14	78.8
Rhode Island	361	775	20	160	679	21	202	863	23	78.7
South Carolina	1,489	637	12	682	576	15	807	716	15	80.4
South Dakota	295	621	8	135	568	15	160	692	17	82.1
Tennessee	2,121	636	13	969	583	12	1,153	716	21	81.4
Texas	8,558	639	7	3,582	586	7	4,976	697	9	84.1
Utah	930	700	12	353	594	11	577	818	20	72.6
Vermont	220	690	15	97	625	15	123	761	24	82.1
Virginia	3,002	758	12	1,381	674	18	1,621	862	24	78.2
Washington	2,329	822	18	981	709	18	1,348	915	21	77.5
West Virginia	615	636	16	264	546	17	352	739	21	73.9
Wisconsin	2,062	706	12	931	624	11	1,131	787	18	79.3
Wyoming	197	748	15	80	599	13	117	883	18	67.8

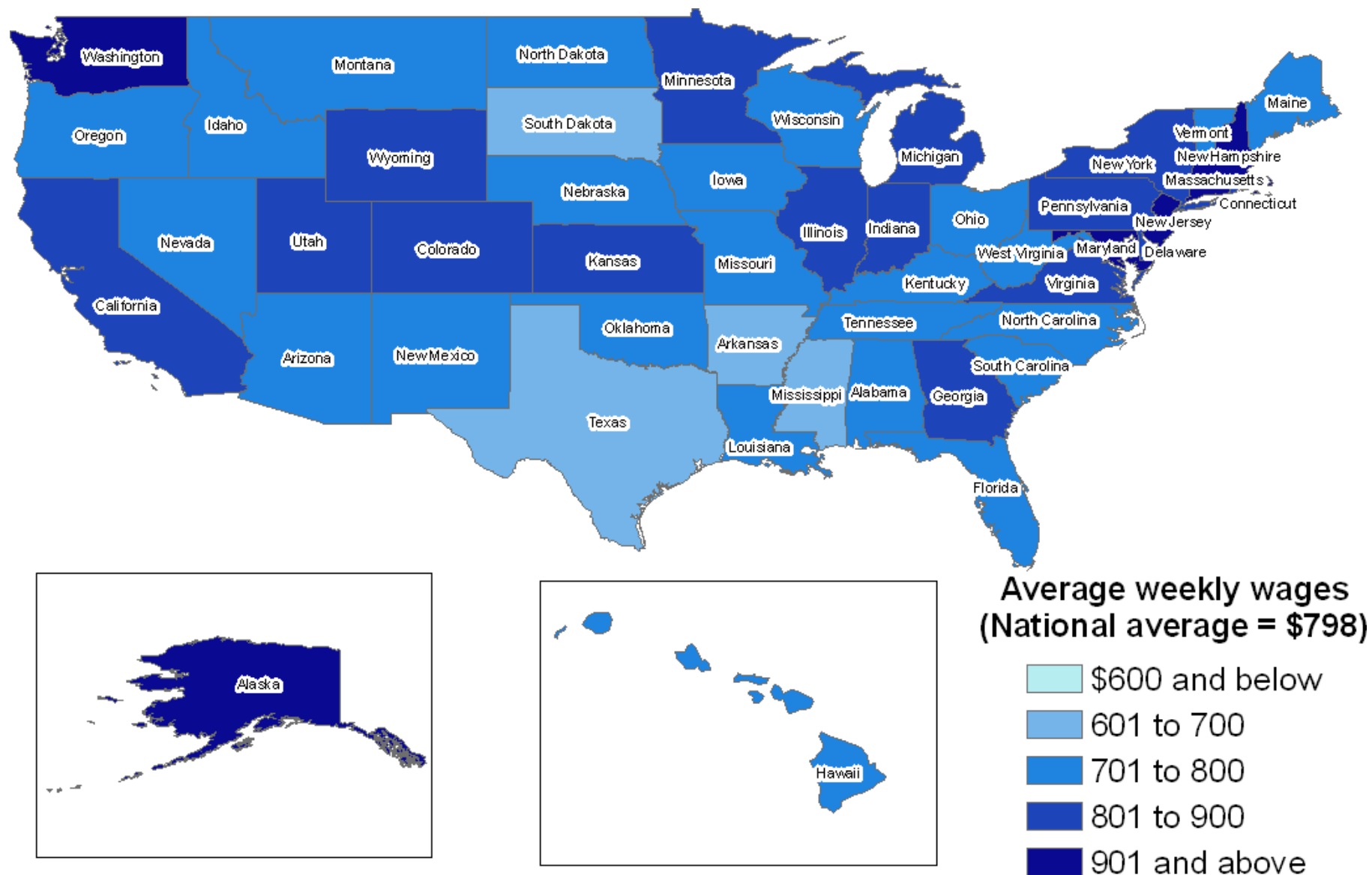
Note: Data refer to persons 16 years and older.

**Chart 2. Women's median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State, 2008 annual averages**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

**Chart 3. Men's median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State, 2008 annual averages**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey